
Grassy Creek Cabooses

Fancy Gap, Virginia

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, *Virginia Green* encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations; and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

Grassy Creek Cabooses

"We have 3 restored railroad cabooses turned into cabins and our (depot) cabin, located just off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Fancy Gap, VA."

Green Statement: "Our environmental awareness started when we were teenagers in the early '70s. It's just a natural continuation to be environmentally conscious in our business as adults."



CORE ACTIVITIES for Lodging

"☑" This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Lodging facilities. Participants self-certify that these activities are in place and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to **Grassy Creek Cabooses** can expect the following practices:

☒ **Optional Linen Service.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must have some sort of system in place that allows guests to not have their sheets and towels changed every day. This facility pledges that they:

- Change linens only upon request
- Train house cleaners on process for optional linen service
- Purchase water and energy efficient washers and dryers
- Use non-phosphate, non-toxic, and biodegradable laundry detergents
- Minimize use of bleach and chlorinated chemicals
- Line dry linens whenever possible

☒ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must recycle and are highly encouraged to maintain a comprehensive recycling program. This facility pledges that they:

- Recycle: glass, aluminum cans, office paper, toner cartridges, newspaper
- We have recycled our railroad cabooses and prevented them from being scrap
- We have recycling bins on the decks of each unit, information in each room informing guests of our efforts to reduce environmental impact
- Track overall waste bills
- Use bulk soap dispensers instead of individual soaps
- Fill up shampoo bottles

- Instruct housekeeping to save and reuse unopened items
- Do not use Styrofoam
- Use reusable dishware and glassware, and minimize use of disposables
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk
- Purchase recycled-content paper towels and toilet paper
- Use electronic correspondence and forms
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Use latex paints
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use less toxic materials
- Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers

☒ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have:
 - low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads
 - low flow toilets
- Discourage water-based cleanup (sweeping first)
- Have an effective stormwater management plan including: pervious pavement, and the minimization of impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc)
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds

☒ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall energy bills
- Have had an energy audit to identify efficiency opportunities
- Use:
 - compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
 - ceiling fans
- Have high efficiency heating & air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Have installed additional insulation
- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Purchase EnergyStar-rated computers, copiers, and appliances
- Have thermal-rated windows and insulation
- Use directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas
- Use only low voltage/LED outside lighting
- Shut down all non-essential power when cabins are not in use

☒ **Green Events Package.** The facility must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided. This facility pledges that they:

- Promote the availability of “green meetings/conferences” in marketing packages
- Offer recycling, paper or washable plates, no styrofoam

For more information on **Grassy Creek Cabooes**, see www.grassycreekcabooes.com or contact **Donnie Yow** at thecabooseman@yahoo.com or 276-398-1100.

For more information on **Virginia Green Lodging** program, see www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/lodging or go to www.viriniagreentravel.org.



Virginia Green Lodging program is a supporting partner of *Virginia Green*, the Commonwealth's campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

